

# St. Peter-in-the-Wood, Appleshaw Church

A brief history of how the church has changed over the years



## Known to date from the 12<sup>th</sup> C.

Historic records suggest that a place of Christian worship has existed in Appleshaw since at least the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.

Sadly records do not cover places of worship prior to that – although there were known to be a number of Roman settlements in and around the village. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Rev. G.H. Engleheart, a vicar living in Appleshaw, discovered close to the village the famous 32 Roman pewter plates & dishes which are now in the British Museum.

## Promotion from 'chapelry' to church

St. Peter-in-the-Wood was a "chapelry" or 'chapel of ease' of Ampport until 1866 when the Ecclesiastical parish of Appleshaw was founded and a church formally established in the village.

## History from the incumbent board

The history of the church can also be seen from the 'incumbent board' which lists the names of the incumbent vicars (or equivalent).

The earliest listed incumbent was a Thomas Child from 1838.



## The 1836 renovation & re-build

By July 1830 the previous church in Appleshaw had fallen into disrepair and it was decided that a new building was required. An architect – T.M. Shurmer, Esq. – was appointed and a grant of £100 was obtained from the "Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building and Repairing of Churches". The total construction costs were £1,300.

The construction works – which resulted in the current building – were completed in 1836, a little more than 180 years ago.



## The 1921 renovation

By 1921 the church was in need of modernisation & renovation – with the installation of electricity seen to be a key issue.

Edward Wellby funded the electrification of the church which was completed just prior to Christmas Day in 1921.

## Installation of the organ in 1922

One of the benefits of electrification was the possibility of installing an organ.

On Easter Day 1922 – a year after electrification of the church - a very generous Miss Ellen Stock presented the church with an organ. This generosity was commemorated with a stained glass window.



## The 1975 restoration

By the 1970s the church was again in need of renovation. Fortunately Jocelyn Hambro MC – Chairwoman of Hambros bank – agreed to fund the renovation of the church in 1975 in memory of his first wife, Silvia.

## More recent improvements

In recent years a number of other improvements have been made to the church, including:

- installation of the corona lucis, made by Kurt Linssner, in memory of Charles Shirley;



- new west inner doors and plaque in memory of Lt. Col. Kidson-Montgomerie, given by his family;
- construction of the archway and lamp at entrance to churchyard path; and
- installation of loop and sound system for hard of hearing in memory of Sir John Clark.

## 4<sup>th</sup> oldest church bell in Hants

There are lots of interesting artefacts in the church, including the two bells housed in the small wooden bell-turret located over the west end of the nave. One of these bells is believed to date from 1210 – which is thought to make it the fourth oldest bell in Hampshire - and is supposed to originate from Mottisfont Priory.



## Royal coat of Arms of William IV

Amongst the numerous wall monuments, there is a 1831 Royal coat of arms.

## The next renovation of the church – making St. Peter-in-the-Wood ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Appleshaw was immensely fortunate to have the Rev. Canon Dr. Ian Tomlinson as its rector from 1979 for 37 years.

Ian was extremely bright and, among other things, independent-minded. He could easily have accepted a promotion but this would have entailed him leaving the village – so, in a manner typical of his Yorkshire roots, he decided to stay put and was totally committed to the village and Appleshaw Church until the end of his life.

Very sadly Ian died in 2016 whilst still formally in post. One of the final initiatives he started before his death was a project to renovate and modernise, once again, Appleshaw church – St. Peter-in-the-Wood - to make sure that it was ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

